

Buffalo Soldiers at Kīlauea, 1915–1917

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IN THE EARLY YEARS of the twentieth century, Kīlauea Volcano on Hawai‘i Island became the focus of a small group of influential men. They had three distinct goals for the summit of Kīlauea: to create a center for the study of active volcanoes, to build a recreational camp for soldiers stationed in the Territory of Hawai‘i, and to develop a national park. Within a space of four years, all three goals were met. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory was established in 1912. Kīlauea Military Camp and Hawaii National Park¹ and were both established in 1916, although the Park was not formally opened until 1921.

During those formative years, several companies of African American soldiers from the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment came to Kīlauea, taking leave from their normal duties at Schofield Barracks on O‘ahu. Between 1915 and 1917, the soldiers’ time at the volcano provided unique opportunities for them to participate in the development of the summit, as trail-builders, tourists, and armed troops.

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THE TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment was one of four regular combat units² of African American soldiers whose history stretched back to the Civil War. After the Civil War they were stationed in the American West and served in the Indian Wars. The Twenty-fifth Infantry was stationed for many years in Texas. Later they fought in the Spanish American War in Cuba, and were twice sent to quell the Philippine Insurrection.

The soldiers were black, but their officers were white. The term "Buffalo Soldiers" originated with the Plains Indians during the Indian Wars of the 1870s. The earliest written record of the term is ascribed to Frances M. A. Roe, wife of Lt. Fayette W. Roe who was stationed with her husband in the Indian Territory during 1872–73. She wrote, "The Indians call them 'Buffalo Soldiers' because their woolly heads are so much like the matted cushion that is between the horns of the buffalo."³

The Twenty-fifth Infantry came to Hawai'i from Washington State, where it had been stationed since its return from the Philippines in 1909. The entire regiment, about 850 enlisted men and officers, arrived at Honolulu Harbor on January 14, 1913, along with troops of the Fourth Cavalry and the Coast Artillery, a total of some 2300 soldiers. With their arrival, the number of soldiers stationed on O'ahu totaled about 5500.⁴ That number increased significantly as World War I approached. The Twenty-fifth Infantry itself more than doubled to about 2300 enlisted men while stationed in Hawai'i.

The men who joined the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment were largely from the Southern states, most coming from Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. At a time when employment was hard to find for African American men, the soldiers tended to reenlist, making a career of the army. Census figures from 1910 reveal that the average age of enlisted men in the Twenty-fifth Infantry was twenty-nine and a half years.⁵ They were mature, seasoned soldiers.

The morning after their arrival in Honolulu, the men of Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment disembarked and began a two-day, twenty-three mile march to Schofield Barracks, where they were stationed until 1918. During their five and a half years in Hawai'i, the Twenty-fifth Infantry received a fair amount of newspaper coverage, as did all



Summit area of Kilauea with approximate locations for buildings and trails as of 1915–17. Modified from current map of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Courtesy HVNP.

of the military organizations in the islands. The newspaper articles provide a glimpse into how the soldiers were viewed by Hawai'i's multi-cultural society. Hawai'i was more accepting of the African American soldiers than mainland communities had been. They did not entirely escape prejudice during their time in the islands, and they certainly remained segregated, but the soldiers did not encounter the racial hatred that had characterized their interactions with civilians in parts of the mainland. In what was perhaps the most egregious incident, a race riot in Brownsville Texas in 1906 resulted in the dishonorable discharge of 167 soldiers from the Twenty-fifth Infantry. Although their officers supported the soldiers' claims of innocence, it was not until the 1970s that the soldiers were exonerated.⁶

By contrast, Hawai'i offered opportunities for the men to engage with civilians in a positive way. The soldiers competed with other regiments and civilian leagues in track and field, and in baseball. The exploits of their baseball team, the "Wreckers," filled many columns in the Honolulu newspapers, gaining them the admiration and respect of the town.⁷ The companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry participated with distinction in parades during Presidents' Day festivities. Their band was applauded at the annual Mid-Pacific Carnival in Honolulu, and was sent to Maui to perform on the Fourth of July in 1916.⁸ Two members of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, "Minor and Brown," were billed as champion buck and wing (tap) dancers of America when they performed in a show staged by all four regiments stationed at Schofield Barracks.⁹

At Schofield, the soldiers' duty time was spent marching and drilling, keeping fit for whatever combat assignment might come next. The companies of the Twenty-fifth trained hard, often marching up to 14 miles a day.¹⁰ Such constant drilling was tedious, so when the chance for a leave assignment on Hawai'i Island presented itself, the company commanders of the Twenty-fifth Infantry volunteered their troops. The first company to arrive left a lasting legacy. They built a trail to the summit of Mauna Loa.

THE MAUNA LOA TRAIL

The idea for the Mauna Loa Trail originated with Thomas A. Jaggar Jr., head of the fledgling Hawaiian Volcano Observatory at Kilauea,

who wanted geologists to have easier access to the 13,677-foot summit than the traditional Hawaiian route through ‘Āinapō on the southeast flank of the mountain. A brief summit eruption of Mauna Loa in early December 1914, during which few people were able to reach the site of the outbreak, added a sense of urgency to Jaggar’s desire for a convenient trail.¹¹ Jaggar’s idea was heartily supported by his friend, the influential *kama‘āina* [native born] Lorrin A. Thurston. Thurston was himself actively promoting the idea of a national park at Kilauea Volcano, and saw the potential a trail would offer for expanded tourism. He spearheaded the effort to organize citizens, businesses and local government in support of the project.

In late August 1915, Thurston gave a talk to business leaders in Hilo, proposing a community-wide effort to raise funds and pledge volunteer support for building a trail, including rest houses, from the summit of Kilauea to the summit of Mauna Loa. His original idea was to ask for prisoners to do the work.¹² At that time, much of the road building in the islands was done with prison labor, and there was a prison camp in Volcano whose inmates were working on the roads leading up to and around Kilauea. However, shortly after Thurston proposed using prison labor to build the trail, the camp at Volcano was disbanded.¹³

Immediately after Thurston’s talk, the Mauna Loa Trail Committee was formed. Besides Jaggar and Thurston, the Committee included Julian Yates, member of the Hawai‘i County Board of Supervisors, George. H. Vicars of the Hilo Emporium, C. E. Wright, manager of the Volcano Stables, and R. W. Filler of the Hilo Railroad Company.¹⁴ The organizers quickly raised \$2000 and obtained pledges of support from Hilo Railroad (of which Thurston was vice-president and general manager¹⁵), Volcano Stables, and the Interisland Steam Ship Navigation Company.¹⁶ By mid-September, Committee members Vicars and Jaggar returned from Honolulu with word that the Twenty-fifth Infantry would send men to build the trail.¹⁷

In volunteering to build the trail, Company E was following a long-established tradition, going back to the days of the Indian Wars when cavalry units did most of the fighting, while the infantry took on many off-post assignments. Most recently, several companies of the Twenty-fifth had won commendation for their role in the historic 1910 Fire of eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana. Other African American

troops provided security and built roads in Western parks between 1891 and 1913. Regulars of the Twenty-fourth Infantry and Ninth Cavalry worked in Yellowstone and Sequoia several summers, when the U. S. Army served as the official administrator for the national parks.¹⁸

The first member of E Company to arrive at Volcano was Lt. Wallace E. Philoon, a West Point graduate and engineer. Along with Thurston, Jaggar, and Herbert Dent, manager of Keauhou Ranch, he began surveying the proposed route. Territorial Engineer Allen Burdick, and local goat rancher Kalaikihi Pea enlarged upon their preliminary survey.¹⁹ Lt. Philoon, meanwhile, turned his attention to the area selected for base camp, a Boy Scout camp near the summit of Kilauea, below what was then the location of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. The summer of 1915 had been dry, and securing an adequate water supply for the soldiers was foremost in the minds of the planners. Additional tanks were built at the Observatory, and pipes were laid to bring the water directly into the soldiers' camp. Eight-man tents were put up, each furnished with a wood stove. A sports field next to the Volcano House was made available to the men.²⁰ The base camp was named after Lt. Philoon. Preparations completed, it was time to bring the troops over.

The summer's drought ended before the soldiers arrived, with a record-breaking rain of nine and one half inches at Kilauea between September 24th and 25th.²¹ This was the first of a series of storms that struck the island through the fall and into winter.²² It is not known what the soldiers thought of the rain, but it certainly would have made their work more difficult. The route of the trail was exposed, much of it over sparsely vegetated lava flows. At higher elevations, thick fog drifts in during the afternoons, obscuring visibility. Mud is not a problem on rocky terrain, but their canvas tents did not offer the soldiers much protection during wet nights.

Under the command of Capt. Charles F. Bates, the men of E Company sailed to Hawai'i Island in mid-October to begin their assignment, "doing the work as part of their vacation exercises."²³ The first group of soldiers arrived on October 15th on the *Matsonia*, and the rest of the company two days later, on the *Mauna Kea*.²⁴ One account says that thirty-five were on the *Matsonia*,²⁵ and another that there were thirty.²⁶ No number is given for the "rest" of the Company, which

arrived two days later on the *Mauna Kea*. At the conclusion of their work, the soldiers also left in two groups. Seventy-three enlisted men returned to O‘ahu on the *Matsonia* on November 15th,²⁷ with sixty more departing on the *Wilhemina* on November 27th.²⁸ Altogether about 140 soldiers and their officers came to build the trail, and each man was on the island between four and six weeks.

Upon arrival in Hilo, the soldiers most likely took the train twenty miles to its terminus at Glenwood, and hiked the remaining ten miles to the summit of Kilauea. They were given a couple of days to get their bearings before work began. From their base camp at the edge of Kilauea Caldera, the men could see the glow from the fire pit at Halema‘uma‘u, which was particularly active at that time.²⁹ They no doubt took advantage of the ball field to practice, and not long after arriving, they challenged the baseball clubs in Hilo to a game.³⁰

The main work camp, “Camp Bates,” was established about eleven miles from Camp Philoon, and some nine miles above Keauhou Ranch headquarters, on the slope of Mauna Loa. The camp’s location, while not documented, was probably the flat area below the observation building at the end of the Mauna Loa Road.³¹ The ranch



FIGURE 1. “Puu Ulaula and Camp Bates from HVO [Hawaiian Volcano Observatory]” by H. O. Wood, January 1916. Photo courtesy of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.



FIGURE 2. "Panorama from Camp Bates" by H. O. Wood, January 1916. Fumes rising from Halema'uma'u are visible at the right. Photo courtesy of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

hauled material to build a rain shed and two 2,000 gallon tanks to the site, where they were erected by Albert J. McKenzie, manager of the Kilauea Stock and Dairy Co.³² Arrangements were made for hauling water from Keauhou Ranch, should the catchment system prove insufficient. Firewood was plentiful at the camp.

About half the soldiers worked on the trail at any given time, while the others were at base camp. At the end of each week they changed places.³³ The troops worked in gangs of twenty to thirty, building the trail from Keauhou Ranch up to Camp Bates, and from Camp Bates up to Pu'u'ulaula (Red Hill), a large cinder cone with a crater, about eight miles further up the mountain. The lower portion, through Keauhou, had been mesic forest, but by 1915, was largely pasture. The Mauna Loa Trail followed existing cattle trails through this portion.³⁴ Above Camp Bates, the terrain was more difficult, mostly over lava flows. The type of lava determined how the trail was built. *A'a* lavas are covered with jagged clinkers, some of considerable size. The clinkers had to be crushed into gravel sized pieces. To do that, the soldiers used 12 pound hammers. The crushed lava was mixed with soil to create a finish for the surface of the trail. The soldiers then carried this mixture on their backs in gunny sacks, up to a quarter of a mile to distribute it along the trail. *Pāhoehoe*, smooth or sometimes ropey in

appearance, is composed of layers of lava with air pockets in between. When the layers are especially thin and brittle, they break under the weight of men or pack animals, and can cause serious injury. For this “blistered” *pāhoehoe*, the hammers were used to break through the thin layers, to a more solid surface.

As the trail ascended, it passed the tree line. At Red Hill, where the rest house was to be built, vegetation was sparse, consisting of a few silversword plants and ‘*ōhelo* bushes. Kerosene was used for cooking and heating at this elevation.³⁵ The final third of the trail was ten miles, from Red Hill to the summit. Tents were pitched at Red Hill, and the soldiers took advantage of a water seep, dripping from the sides of a lava tube at the bottom of Red Hill crater, for their water supply.³⁶

In late November, shortly before the soldiers were to return to O‘ahu, Col. Lyman Kennon, commander of the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment, came to Hawai‘i Island to inspect the trail. Roy L. Noggle, a military photographer who intended to take motion pictures of the men at work on the trail, accompanied Kennon. This author has not located any film or photographs from that trip. Describing the state of the trail at the time of inspection, the *Hawaiian Gazette* stated,

The trail is flagged and marked by piles of rock all the way to the top of the mountain, so that anyone desiring to make the trip on foot can do so without a guide and without danger of being lost in the fog. The trail to camp Bates, eleven miles from the Volcano House, is completed and all the material for the rest house has been packed up to this point. The trail for the next nine miles has been worked so that it is in good, passable condition, but will require some smoothing up yet. The section for the last nine or ten miles has also had much work done on it.³⁷

Contrary to current belief, Red Hill Cabin was not built by the soldiers. According to the same article in the *Hawaiian Gazette*, the Mauna Loa Trail Committee contracted the work. Herbert Dent, of Keauhou Ranch, packed the material for the rest house from Camp Bates to Red Hill. Albert McKenzie, who earlier built the rain shed and water tanks at Camp Bates, was responsible for the cabin construction. McKenzie apparently had the help of Hilo contractor John Bohnenberg, who was credited with completing the cabin at Red Hill in December.³⁸ In February 1916, Jaggard reported that the new trail with its rest house at Red Hill was finding favor.³⁹

By the time Bohnenberg finished his work, at least one of the water tanks at Camp Bates had been taken down. Whether and for how long any other structures at Camp Bates were used is not known. The same campsite may have been used again in 1933 when a telephone line to the summit of Mauna Loa was installed. Little trace of either camp exists today.⁴⁰

What the soldiers did was hard work. Starting from about 4000 feet in elevation, they built and marked the trail to the Mauna Loa summit at 13,677 feet. Climbers on the trail today are warned of altitude sickness and extreme weather conditions. The Mauna Loa Trail Committee tried to provide for the men's comfort, but conditions were primitive. Their tools were hammers and gunnysacks, they were camping in canvas tents, and they did not have the use of mules or horses. In fact, their job was to make the trail passable for pack animals.

And then there was the rain. From records kept by the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory⁴¹ we have these accounts of conditions at Kilauea:

Oct 29—Oct 30th—Much rain

Nov. 3rd—Heavy rain storm, more than five inches at the Observatory

November 9th and 10th—Severe storm at first from the northeast and later with wind veering to the southeast

Nov. 11th to 18th—twenty eight and one half inches, of which over twenty fell in one forty-eight hour period

The bad weather is not mentioned in any of the reports on the trail project, and it didn't stop the soldiers from traveling down to Hilo for a game of baseball on October 31st, at which they defeated the local team.⁴² The Twenty-fifth Infantry were no strangers to victory on the baseball field. In fact, while Company E was on Hawai'i Island, the Twenty-fifth Infantry team was playing against civilian teams of the O'ahu League for the island-wide championship.⁴³

By November 26th their work was done. The remaining soldiers and their officers were invited to a Thanksgiving dinner at the Hilo Armory before they sailed. Forty-seven men sat down to a meal donated by Mrs. C. C. Kennedy, wife of Hilo banker and former manager of the Waiakea Sugar Mill, Charles C. Kennedy. The food was provided by the Demosthenes Café, owned by Demosthenes Lycurgus, who was

also the manager of the Volcano House at that time. In the same building, but not at the same table, the officers of the Twenty-fifth sat down with the Kennedys and their friends. Among the officers were Col. Kennon, Capt. Bates, Lt. Saunders, and Lt. Philoon. Mr. G. H. Vicars, Treasurer of the Mauna Loa Trail Committee was among the friends.⁴⁴ Their dinner was well deserved. The soldiers of E Company had built between 26 and 27 miles of trail, won a baseball game, and endured at least 33 inches of rain. Their accomplishments are surely unique in the history of Kilauea “vacations.”

KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP

Several more companies of soldiers from the Twenty-fifth Infantry came to Hawai'i Island in 1917 to stay at the brand new Kilauea Military Camp. The same men who supported the building of the Mauna Loa Trail were behind the development of Kilauea Military Camp. Lorrin A. Thurston was the driving force behind the Camp's creation, having gained the support of Samuel Johnson, Commander of the Hawaii National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Robert Evans, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army's Hawaiian Department. They were joined on the Board of Trustees by G. H. Vicars, and Lt. Col. John T. Moir of the Hawaii Island National Guard. R. W. Filler, of the Hilo Railroad, was also an early supporter, and later joined the Board. The Camp was built and initially operated at no expense to the military. The site, about 50 acres of open, nearly level land near the summit of Kilauea, was ideal for military drills. The Trustees expected that the National Guard would use it as a training camp, and that the regular army would use it as a vacation retreat. When it opened, in 1916, Kilauea Military Camp had three main buildings: the officer's building, 30 by 70 feet, and two identical buildings, each 50 by 154 feet. Each building had a fireplace, kitchen and dining area, with an open verandah on one side. Washing and latrine buildings were nearby, supplied with catchment water. The soldiers were expected to bring their own sleeping tents.⁴⁵

The Trustees arranged for reduced rates for troops traveling to Hawai'i Island from their bases on O'ahu. The Hilo Armory, where soldiers stayed before going up to Kilauea, was made available at no expense. The Trustees claimed the Camp “is the manifestation of a

spirit of community cooperation in support of the principle of 'preparedness.'"⁴⁶ There was another reason that the local businessmen supported Kilauea Military Camp. As their representative L. W. de Vis-Norton wrote: "[The Camp] is helping in the good work of adding to the reputation of the Volcano as one of the most important of our territorial tourist assets."⁴⁷ The military camp would support the goal of publicizing the new Hawaii National Park, and the Park, in turn, would provide the venue for the activities soldiers would enjoy during their stay at Kilauea Military Camp.

The camp opened for business in November 1916, one year after Company E completed work on the Mauna Loa Trail. Among the first soldiers to visit were several companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry. Company B arrived on February 5, 1917, but their vacation was interrupted the very next day by an incident at Hilo Harbor. In the run-up to the United States' entry into World War I, the U. S. government, on February 3rd, severed diplomatic relations with Germany. German ships in Hawaiian ports were "taken in charge by United States officials."⁴⁸ At Hilo, the ship *O. J. D. Ahlers* was taken by the Deputy Collector of Customs Byron K. Baird, assisted by two deputy marshals and twelve armed soldiers of Company B, under the command of Capt. Alexander J. McNab. The crew of the *Ahlers* offered no resistance, and once his men were established onboard, Capt. McNab left them under the command of their sergeant and rejoined the rest of Company B at Kilauea Military Camp. The following week, sixteen more soldiers from Company B cut short their vacation at the Camp to relieve the original twelve. Under the command of Sgt. Jesse Williams, they continued to hold the ship under patrol⁴⁹ until February 17th when the entire company returned to Honolulu.⁵⁰ It was another interesting vacation for the soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry.

In March 1917, Companies A, G, H and I of the Twenty-fifth Infantry visited Kilauea Military Camp in turn, each staying about a week in camp. In his autobiography, *Black and Conservative*, George S. Schuyler gives a brief description of their activities at the summit.⁵¹ Schuyler enlisted in the 25th Infantry Regiment as a young man in 1912, was stationed at Schofield until 1917, and left the service in 1918. He later became a journalist whose articles were published in some of the leading journals at the time. Always an iconoclast, Schuyler provides a lively and insightful account of life at Schofield Barracks, as expe-



FIGURE 3. Soldiers from H Company using iron pipe to measure depth of the lava lake at Halema'uma'u. Photo courtesy of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.



FIGURE 4. Photo taken by Thomas Jaggar of the lava lake at Halema'uma'u, March 1917. The floating islands of solidified lava were called "crag's." Photo courtesy of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

rienced by the enlisted men of the Twenty-fifty Infantry. At Kīlauea, Alexander Lancaster was the guide for the vacationing soldiers. “Alex” or “Alec” was part African American and part American Indian and had worked as a guide at Kīlauea for many years. By 1917, he was working as a jack-of-all-trades for Thomas Jaggar. Lancaster took the soldiers to all of the sights enjoyed by the more adventurous travelers: Devil’s Throat, Kīlauea Iki, the steam vents, and down to the lava lake of Halema’uma’u.

The *Hawaiian Gazette* reported on some of the exploits of the troops, quoting the same George Schuyler. Company H had a “magnificent time.” Going down to the fire pit of Halema’uma’u, members of the company found that the lava stream between one of the “crag” islands and the rim bench had cooled enough to permit them to cross, which they did. “It was pretty hot down there,” remarked Corporal George S. Schuyler, speaking of the experience, “and about twenty-five minutes after we got away the crust caved in and the stream commenced flowing again.” While there, the members of the company assisted Observatory Director Jaggar in measuring the depth of the molten lava (29 feet) with a long iron pipe. “When that pipe came up,” said Corp. Schuyler, “the lava on the end of it was thick like glue.”⁵² Company I also did some work for Jaggar at Halema’uma’u, trying, without success, to measure the temperature of the lava lake using Seger pyrometric cones.⁵³ The highlight of I Company’s stay was a goat hunt. Excellent marksmen, the soldiers bagged twelve goats, and made a feast.⁵⁴

COMPANY B RETURNS FOR DUTY ON HAWAI’I ISLAND

After war was officially declared in April 1917, there were no more excursions to Kīlauea Military Camp. Some companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry were assigned guard duty at various locations on O’ahu. Company B, under Capt. McNab, returned to Hawai’i Island. Most of the men were stationed at the Hilo Armory to guard Hilo Harbor; a few were sent across the island, to the port of Kawaihae, where they guarded the telegraph station. The troops in Hilo were held in affectionate regard. Ordering a civilian to produce a pass at gunpoint, earned one soldier this comment, “He’s alright, that soldier, and nobody will ever get past him without a real passport.”⁵⁵ In the

baseball-mad world of Hawai‘i, Company B “set fire” to two thousand Hilo fans at their first game, although the fire was temporarily extinguished when 500 of the fans left the game, drawn to the sight of a large school of fish jumping in Hilo Bay.⁵⁶ The company was on hand to officially take possession of the *O. J. D. Ahlers* on May 11th. Like other German ships detained in Hawai‘i ports, the *Ahlers* was added to the U.S. merchant marine fleet once war was declared. By late June, Capt. McNab, who was anxious to get his men back to Schofield, ordered marksmanship training for his company. His men put in an exceptional performance. Virtually all ninety-six enlisted men in the company made marksman or better in their trials.⁵⁷ The training was meant to prepare them for the combat, but guard service in Hawai‘i was as close as these fine soldiers would come to participating in the Great War. When Company B returned to O‘ahu in August, the Hilo Baseball League presented their team with twenty-five dollars.⁵⁸

One year later the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment was assigned to border duty in southern Arizona.

CONCLUSION

All but forgotten now, the Buffalo Soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry made their mark on Hawai‘i in the years the regiment was stationed at Schofield. On O‘ahu, they were best known for their baseball teams.

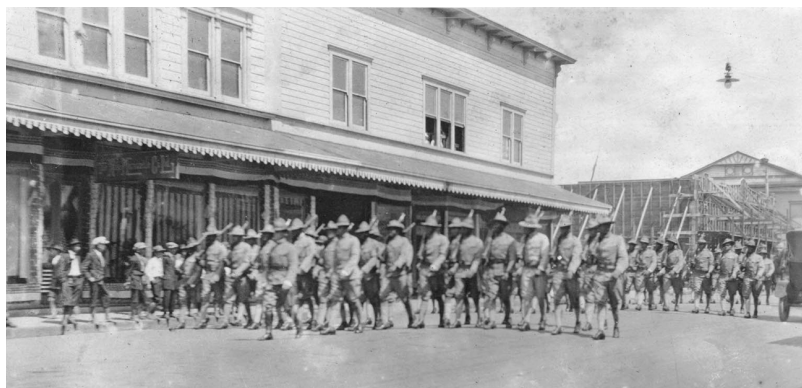


FIGURE 5. Company B marching in the Fourth of July parade in Hilo. Photo courtesy of Lyman Museum.

Honolulu sports fans enjoyed professional quality ball from the Twenty-fifth, with games regularly drawing thousands of spectators.⁵⁹ Several team members later joined the Negro League and one, Wilber Rogan, was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.⁶⁰

On Hawai'i Island between 1915 and 1917, six companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiment stayed at Kilauea. Company E made a lasting contribution to the development of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park by building the Mauna Loa Trail, still in use today. As early visitors to the newly established Kilauea Military Camp, Company B cut short their leave to secure the port of Hilo, later returning to the island for duty during WWI. Companies H and I assisted Thomas Jaggar with his investigations of the lava lake at Kilauea. And all of the soldiers had the opportunity to live, however briefly, on the edge of one of world's most active volcanoes. Their time at Kilauea and on Hawai'i Island gave them unique experiences during a formative time for the Volcano area. In turn, the soldiers enriched the Hawai'i Island community through their service and their sportsmanship.

NOTES

- ¹ The Hawaii National Park was divided into Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Haleakalā National Park in 1961.
- ² The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiments.
- ³ Frank N. Schubert, *Voices of the Buffalo Soldier: Records, Reports, and Recollections of Military Life and Service in the West*. (Albuquerque, NM: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009) 48.
- ⁴ "Forces on Oahu." *HG* Jan 17, 1913: 6.
- ⁵ A summary of 1910 US Census data for eight companies of the Twenty-fifth stationed at Ft. George Wright near Spokane is an appendix to the website "The Great 1910 Fire" <http://www.1910fire.com/Appendix%20Pages/Twenty-fifth%20Infantry/Twenty-fifth%20infantry.htm>.
- ⁶ Betty Nyangoni, "Brownsville (Texas) Incident of 1906," in *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*. ed. Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard (Santa Barbara: Greenwood, 2014) 202–205.
- ⁷ Fully aware of their drawing power, the Twenty-fifth's team members demanded and got a notice in the newspaper requesting that the League take down promotional posters featuring racial caricatures prior to the O'ahu games, saying that the team "may refuse to play" if they did not. "Twenty-Fifth Ball Team has a Kick." *Sunday Advertiser* Oct 17, 1915: 5.

- ⁸ “Special Excursion for Big Races is Assured,” *Maui News* Jun 23, 1916:4.
- ⁹ “Army Amateurs as Good as Most Professionals,” *HSB* Jan 7, 1916:7
- ¹⁰ Former officer with the Regiment, John H. Nankivell gives a year-by-year chronicle of the activities of the Twenty-fifth Infantry detailing assignments of the various companies. See John Henry Nankivell, *Buffalo Soldier Regiment: History of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, 1896–1926*. (1927; rpt: Lincoln, NE: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2001).
- ¹¹ “Few Reached the 1914 Outbreak.” *Hilo Tribune*, Dec 8, 1914: 1.
- ¹² “Rest House for Mauna Loa Slope.” *Hawaii Herald*, Sep 3, 1915: 6.
- ¹³ “Prison Labor is Taken Away from the County.” *Hilo Tribune*, Sep 28, 1915: 1.
- ¹⁴ “Mauna Loa Trail Committee Organized.” *Hilo Tribune*, Oct 5, 1915:1.
- ¹⁵ John Moody, *Moody’s Analyses of Investments, Pt. 1 Steam Railroads*, (New York: Moody’s Investors Service, 1916) 892.
- ¹⁶ “Money Rolling in for Trails and Rest Houses.” *Hawaii Herald*, Sep 17, 1915:1.
- ¹⁷ “Rest Houses and Trail Soon.” *Hilo Tribune*, Sep 21, 1915: 1.
- ¹⁸ Background on the duties performed by the soldiers, including the role of Charles Young, one of three African American West Point graduates, who was the acting military superintendent of Sequoia during the summer of 1906, can be found at the National Park Service website for Yosemite. <http://www.nps.gov/yose/historyculture/buffalo-soldiers.htm>
- ¹⁹ “Mauna Loa Trail Committee Organized.” *Hilo Tribune* Oct 5, 1915: 1.
- ²⁰ “Good Old Stove Has its Innings with Company E.” *HG* Oct 26, 1915: 7.
- ²¹ “Much Rain.” *Hawaii Herald* Oct 22, 1915: 5.
- ²² Culminating in a storm that dumped 8.26 inches of rain and blew the roof off the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. *Weekly Bulletin of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory* 4 (Jan 1916) no. 1: 3.
- ²³ “Soldiers Building Mountain Trail.” *Maui News* Oct 29, 1915: 5.
- ²⁴ “Army Notes.” *HSB* Oct 12, 1915: 8.
- ²⁵ “Army Trail Blazers En Route to Volcano.” *PCA* Oct 16, 1915: 3.
- ²⁶ *Weekly Bulletin of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory* 3 (Oct 1915) no. 10: 108.
- ²⁷ Nankivell, *Buffalo*, 141.
- ²⁸ “Big Island News.” *HG* Nov 26, 1915: 5.
- ²⁹ *Weekly Bulletin of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory* 3 (Oct 1915) no. 10: 109.
- ³⁰ “Twenty-fifth Men Want Ball Game.” *Hawaii Herald* Oct 29, 1915: 1.
- ³¹ Dennis Dougherty, *Giant of the Pacific: Mauna Loa Reconnaissance, 2003*. Publications in Anthropology #14. (Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, 2004) 95–97.
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- ³³ “Soldiers Here to Build Summit Trail.” *Hilo Tribune* Oct 19, 1915: 1.
- ³⁴ The lower portion of the Mauna Loa Trail is now the Mauna Loa Road.
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- ³⁶ “Bohnenberg tells of Mountain Trail.” *Hilo Tribune* Jan 4, 1916: 1.
- ³⁷ “Big Island News.” *HG* Nov 26, 1915: 5.
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- ⁵² "Infantrymen Walked on Hardened Crust Over Halemaumau." *HG* Mar 30, 1917: 7.
- ⁵³ Thomas A. Jaggar, Jr., Record Book, Mar 31, 1917. USGS Library, Reston, VA.
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- ⁵⁷ "Expert Shots in Company B." *Hilo Daily Tribune* Aug 5, 1917: 5.
- ⁵⁸ "Mauna Kea Has 343 Passengers." *HSB* Aug 25, 1917: 7.
- ⁵⁹ "Over 3000 Persons See Wreckers Win." *HSB* Oct 8, 1917: 8.
- ⁶⁰ Video of his son speaking at Rogan's induction ceremony can be found at <http://m.mlb.com/video/v13104895/bullet-joe-rogan-inducted-into-baseball-hall-of-fame>.